

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, 23-27 are pending for examination. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The pending claims have been rejected in the same manner as in the previous Office Action of July 22, 2005. More particularly:

1. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Coughlin, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,810,411; hereafter “Coughlin”) in view of Pontoppidan, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0161872; hereafter “Pontoppidan”); and
2. Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yanagidate, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,128,664; hereafter “Yanagidate”).

The Applicant respectfully maintains its traversal of these rejections and further maintains its request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

More particularly, independent Claims 1, 10, and 18 recite that name query requests are variably transmitted to at least one of plural subnets via an interface linked to the LAN, as amended in the Applicant’s previous response of October 21, 2005. Thus, Claim 1, for example, recites a method comprising (emphasis presently added by the Applicant):

first receiving, by the multiple interface naming proxy via the RAS interface, the network resource name service request;

first transmitting to at least one of the one or more subnets, via at least the interface linked to the LAN, a name query request corresponding to the network resource name service request; and

second receiving in response to the first transmitting step, by the machine via the interface linked to the LAN, a name query response including a network address for the resource residing on at least one of the one or more subnets coupled to the machine via the interface linked to the LAN.

Contrary to the assertion in the “Response to Arguments” in the outstanding Office Action, the Applicant did not argue in favor of a recitation of “name query requests are variably transmitted to at least one of plural subnets via an interface linked to a LAN.” Rather, the Applicant merely referred to the description on page 11 of the specification of

the present application to provide an example of support for the amendments to the claims, and not for the purpose of distinguishing the claims over the cited references.

Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as previously presented, are not taught or even suggested by Coughlin or Pontoppidan, either singularly or in combination. Further, such amendments should have been considered since the substance of such amendments is not recited in the preamble, but rather in the body of the amended claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the outstanding Office Action be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Coughlin, Pontoppidan, or Yanagidate teach or suggest the transmissions to one of plural subnets, as in the claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references; and it is further requested that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the references utilized to reject the pending claims, particularly in view of the current amendments to the claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Date: January 31, 2006

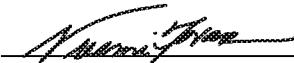
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